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February 22, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

I am writing today to bring to your attention to a legislative effort that I believe fits the goals of the "Green the Capitol" initiative.

One consequence of our increasingly digital world is that government can and should conduct its business using fewer resources and less paper. Doing so would accomplish the twin goals of conserving our natural resources and saving taxpayer dollars from unnecessary printing costs. Yet Congress has been slow to take advantage of this opportunity.

As a result of outdated laws and practices, Members receive multiple printed copies of each bill we cosponsor, regardless of the length of the bill. Since we are in an increasingly paperless and digitized world, this makes little sense environmentally, practically or financially. All bills are available to Members and the public online. Unsolicited, printed copies of cosponsored bills are a waste of money and paper. I believe it's time for Congress to start leading by example and to end this unnecessary practice.

For this reason I introduced a simple, common sense bill that would end this wasteful practice. The Stop the OverPrinting (STOP) Act of 2010 would halt the mandatory printing of bills and resolutions by the Government Printing Office. Of course, printed copies will still be available upon request. This measure does not affect standing legal requirements on the archiving of congressional documents. Furthermore, this legislation would direct the Joint Committee on Printing to conduct a study examining congressional rules and practices to see what other potential changes may be necessary if Congress were to transition to paperless operations.

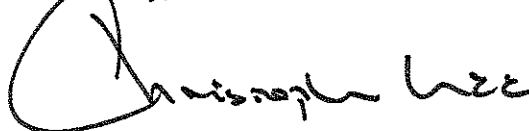
Speaker Pelosi
February 11, 2010
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In the end, this bill makes a common sense, long overdue change that will save taxpayers money and reduce waste on Capitol Hill. For 2010, potential savings could result in \$2.2 million. In a \$3.8 trillion budget, these potential savings are modest, but I believe we should spend taxpayers' money wisely or not at all.

On February 22, 2010 the bipartisan STOP Act was introduced. **Today, I am writing to ask for your support in this effort and to respectfully urge you to incorporate this proposal as part of your the "Green the Capitol" initiative.**

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Lee", written over a large, loopy circular flourish.

CHRISTOPHER J. LEE
Member of Congress